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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 25 NO.4 APR. 1989

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Jan '89	Feb '89
Labor Force	227,158	225,850
Employment	208,990	207,813
Unemployment	18,168	18,037
Rate (Raw)	8.0	8.0
Mining Hourly Wage	$15.19	$15.53
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.0	42.5
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.4	5.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.11	$13.03
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.9	41.6
Consumer Price Index All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	121.1	121.6
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.7	+4.8

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

— Wyoming Union Membership
— Wyoming Counties-A Ten Year Look

FEBRUARY U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT AT 14 YEAR LOW

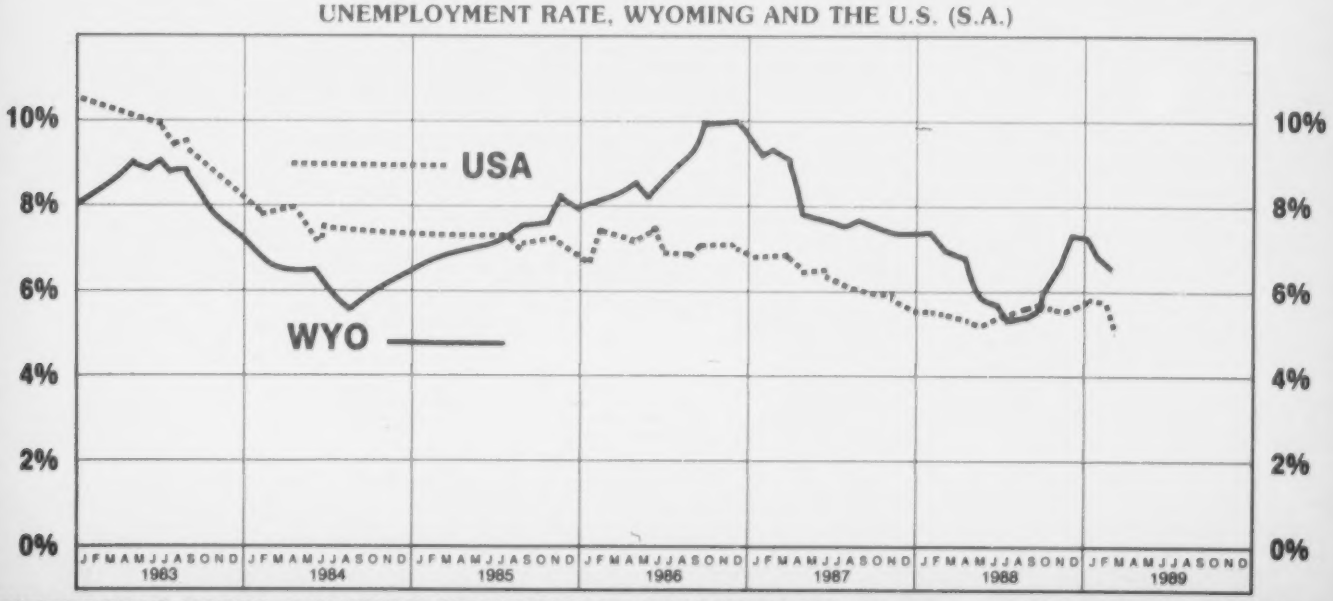
The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate for February declined to 5.1 percent, at its lowest point since May, 1974. Prior to the drop in February, the rate was in the 5.3 to 5.4 percent range during the prior five months. The February rate compared to 5.7 in February, 1988.

In February, civilian employment increased annually by 2.6 million workers to a level of 115 million, up 2.3 percent. The number unemployed in February, at 6.9 million, was down about 600,000 over the year.

SERVICES, TRADE, AND MANUFACTURING GAINS FUELING U. S. ECONOMIC GROWTH

In February, 1.3 million workers were added over the year in services, trade gained 900,00 and manufacturing was up by 400,00. All other industries were also up annually, except mining, down 17,000 workers in a continuing slump.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section
Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES AT 8.0 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY

State wide unemployment continued at 8.0 percent in February, with 18,000 unemployed, the same rate as January, but down from 8.4 percent of a year ago. The comparable U. S. February rate stood at 5.6 percent, seasonally unadjusted.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES AT YEAR-AGO LEVEL

The February Wyoming civilian labor force, at over 225,800, was down seasonally by 1,300 from January and compared to about 228,000 last year. Total employment, workers, at over 207,800 was also down from about 209,000 the previous month and about the same as the 208,700 last year.

WYOMING 1988 ANNUAL AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT AT ABOUT 1987 LEVEL

In 1988, annual average Wyoming employment of 217,000 was about the same as the 1987 average of 219,000. The 1987 average was a sharp drop from the 1986 average worker count of 229,000 and compares to the historical high of 241,000 workers in 1982.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT - A GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS STORY

In Wyoming, as in the U. S., employment gains over the year were greatest in the service-producing industries. In the state, federal government led the pack with a 700 annual worker employment gain. Services and retail trade followed, with a gain of 400 workers each. On the other side of the coin, the goods-producing industries that once drove the Wyoming economy to record levels of job growth, wages, and costs of living are continuing to shrink. Construction and oil and gas extraction both lost 600 workers over the year. Manufacturing, the remaining goods-producing industry, was up a bit by 200 workers annually.

ANNUAL LABOR FORCE DECLINES NOTED IN 14 WYOMING COUNTIES

As in January, 14 of the state's 23 counties indicated annual labor force declines in February. Teton and Albany counties continued with the lowest unemployment at 3.2 and 4.8 percent. Fremont and Lincoln counties, both at 11.3 percent, registered the highest. For more county detail refer to Table 2.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES IMPLEMENTED IN JANUARY

Beginning with data for January, 1989, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) introduced a method for calculating statewide monthly employment and unemployment estimates for 39 states,including Wyoming, and the District of Columbia. This new method, known as the variable coefficient model (VCM) approach, will yield more precise monthly statewide estimates and automatically adjust to structural changes in the economies of the various states. The new methodology has recieved a thorough statistical review with the BLS, and has been tested extensively by state employment research sections that compute the state and local area data.

The old building-block approach to defining and estimating components of unemployment and employment was deficient in a number of respects. The old official monthly state estimates tended to reflect neither the seasonality of the unemployment insurance-based series nor that of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

The VCM approach is based on a statistical technique called regression, which is used for a wide variety of statistical programs. Within the new methodology the regression technique was employed to develop statistical models (estimating equations) that could produce estimates that were resistant to large random sampling errors in the CPS. Over ten years of data from the CPS, unemployment insurance (UI), and current employment statistics (CES) programs have been collected to build these regression models.

The primary benefit of the new method (VCM) is a more accurate representation of monthly movements in each state. To insure that the new method would, in fact, provide better estimates, the research included an extensive test period. The tests on the VCM approach indicated that the month-to-month changes in estimates may be somewhat larger than before, primarily because the previous method tended to underrepresent the changes in several of the more seasonally volatile population groups. Since the VCM approach better represents these groups, the overall estimates will tend to reflect more seasonal changes.

For a more technical explanation of the VCM model, contact the Research and Analysis section.

WYOMING UNION MEMBERSHIP

Wyoming's union membership increased 247 in 1988 to 10.3 percent of the workforce,according to a survey conducted by the Wyoming Department of Labor and Statistics. Of the estimated 220,460 workers in the state, in August, 22,669 were determined to be union members. The results of the survey appear in the publication, ***Directory of Wyoming Labor Organizations, 1988-1989***

The survey revealed the greatest concentration of union affiliated workers was within government, which claimed 10,673 members or 47.1 percent of the state total. Transportation and public utilities was second with 5,439 members or 24.0 percent. The remaining industries had less than 10 percent each of the state's total union labor.

Some counties in Wyoming have higher percentages of unionized labor than others. For example, approximately 23 percent of Sweetwater County's employment is affiliated with a union, while Teton County has just 1.3 percent of its employment carrying union cards.

The number of employed female union members increased by 405 to a total of 7,574 for 1988 - a 5.6 percent increase. In comparison, males lost 158 members in 1988. The gain in union female membership occured predominately within government and wholesale and retail trade. Most of the female unionized workers in Wyoming are employed in government, over 77 percent of the total.

Previous to the 1988 data, Wyoming's union membership had shown a decline as a result of the state's poor economy. In 1987 the number of union members declined by 2,056 year-to-year, and the percent of union members to total employment (9.9 percent) was the lowest such ratio posted in the 1980's. The previous low was recorded in 1984 at 10.2 percent, the highest was calculated at 13.8 percent in 1980.

SHERIDAN, WYOMING
1976-1986

Sheridan County's 1986 population of 26,000 ranked 7th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Sheridan had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,892. This PCPI ranked ninth in the state, and was 101 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 88 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Sheridan's PCPI of $6,704 ranked 11th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past ten years was 6.8 percent, more than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Sheridan had a total personal income (TPI) of $334,995*. This TPI ranked seventh in the state and accounted for 5.2 percent of the state total. In 1976, Sheridan's TPI of $141,825* ranked seventh in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past ten years was 9.0 percent, equal to the state average (9.0 percent) and less than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Sheridan increased from $92,802* in 1976 to $199,853 in 1986, an average annual growth rate of eight percent. The largest industries in 1986 were services, which accounted for 18.3 percent of earnings; state and local government, 18.2 percent; mining, 14.1 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were services, with 15.6 percent of earnings; retail trade, 13.9 percent; state and local government, 13.0 percent; and construction, 12.0 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least five percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was construction (7.8 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 3.4 percent; the fastest was mining, which increased at an average annual rate of 15.8 percent.

SUBLETTE, WYOMING
1976-1986

Sublette County's 1986 population of 6,300 ranked 20th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Sublette had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $15,967. This PCPI ranked second in the state, and was 125 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 109 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Sublette's PCPI of $7,658 ranked fifth in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past ten years was 7.6 percent, more than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Sublette had a total personal income (TPI) of $99,871*. This TPI ranked 18th in the state and accounted for 1.5 percent of the state total. In 1976, Sublette's TPI of $30,188* ranked 21st in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past ten years was 12.7 percent, more than the state average (9.0 percent) and more than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Sublette increased from $22,900* in 1976 to $76,608* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 12.8 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were construction, which accounted for 32.7 percent of earnings; mining, 20.1 percent; and services, 17.1 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were construction, with 24.6 percent of earnings; services, 13.4 percent; state and local government, 11.8 percent; and retail trade, 11.5 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least five percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was retail trade (5.3 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 4.4 percent; the fastest was mining, which increased at an average annual rate of 20.3 percent.

*All income estimates with the exception of PCPI are in thousands of dollars.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100)
ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
February 1989	121.6	122.7	121.1	124.3	115.3	111.6	145.2
Annual % Change	4.8	6.0	3.9	5.1	4.6	4.5	7.2

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	FEB 1989[1]	JAN 1989[1]	FEB 1988[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	225,850	227,158	227,955	- 0.6%	- 0.9%
Unemployment	18,037	18,168	19,216	- 0.7%	- 6.1%
Employed Labor Force	207,813	208,990	208,739	- 0.6%	- 0.4%
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	164,800	166,100	164,003	- 0.8%	0.5%
b. Agriculture[3]	10,687	9,163	9,879	16.6%	8.2%
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)	8.0%	8.0%	8.4%	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.6% 5.1%*	6.0% 5.4%*	6.2% 5.7%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.7%	3.2%	3.9%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 660.03	$ 622.79	$ 632.78	6.0%	4.3%
Average Weekly Hours	42.5	41.0	42.9	3.7%	- 0.9%
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 15.53	$ 15.19	$ 14.75	2.2%	5.3%
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	28,651	31,361	33,674	- 8.6%	-14.9%
a. Initial	3,167	4,363	3,293	-27.2%	- 3.6%
Weeks Compensated	22,309	21,175	24,017	5.4%	- 7.1%
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 3,542,951	$ 3,345,429	$ 3,760,705	5.9%	- 5.8%
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 157.95	$ 157.30	$ 156.21	0.4%	1.1%
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 542.05	$ 549.31	$ 531.28	- 1.3%	2.0%
Average Weekly Hours	41.6	41.9	41.8	- 0.7%	- 0.5%
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.03	$ 13.11	$ 12.71	- 0.6%	2.5%
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84 = 100	121.6	121.1	116.0	0.4%	4.8%
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84 = 100	110.8	110.3	104.8	0.5%	5.7%
Food and Beverage 1982-84 = 100	122.7	122.0	115.8	0.6%	6.0%

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	FEB 1989	JAN 1989	FEB 1988	%CHANGE JAN-FEB	%CHANGE FEB-FEB	FEB 1989	JAN 1989	FEB 1988	FEB 1989	JAN 1989	FEB 1988
Statewide	225,850	227,158	227,955	- 0.6	- 0.9	18,037	18,168	19,216	8.0	8.0	8.4
Albany	14,394	14,382	15,222	0.1	- 5.4	698	748	758	4.8	5.2	5.0
Big Horn	5,062	4,969	4,731	1.9	7.0	559	392	553	11.0	7.9	11.7
Campbell	14,673	14,878	15,235	- 1.4	- 3.7	1,402	1,415	1,331	9.6	9.5	8.7
Carbon	7,057	7,066	7,517	- 0.1	- 6.1	710	706	771	10.1	10.0	10.3
Converse	5,487	5,390	5,502	1.8	- 0.3	572	575	528	10.4	10.7	9.6
Crook	2,729	2,750	2,849	- 0.8	- 4.2	241	245	264	8.8	8.9	9.3
Fremont	16,417	16,492	15,780	- 0.5	4.0	1,861	1,949	1,633	11.3	11.8	10.3
Goshen	5,676	5,479	6,019	3.6	- 5.7	411	319	633	7.2	5.8	10.5
Hot Springs	2,701	2,725	2,838	- 0.9	- 4.8	143	150	184	5.3	5.5	6.5
Johnson	3,425	3,391	3,292	1.0	4.0	279	274	253	8.1	8.1	7.7
Laramie	35,503	36,037	35,398	- 1.5	0.3	2,235	2,383	2,302	6.3	6.6	6.5
Lincoln	5,340	5,426	5,732	- 1.6	- 6.8	604	645	690	11.3	11.9	12.0
Natrona	30,171	30,519	30,460	- 1.1	- 0.9	2,452	2,451	2,652	8.1	8.0	8.7
Niobrara	1,216	1,173	1,466	3.7	-17.1	85	82	131	7.0	7.0	8.9
Park	12,500	12,692	12,195	- 1.5	2.5	932	914	1,021	7.5	7.2	8.4
Platte	4,457	4,444	4,231	0.3	5.3	316	347	407	7.1	7.8	9.6
Sheridan	12,845	12,773	12,173	0.6	5.5	795	783	956	6.2	6.1	7.9
Sublette	2,400	2,427	2,545	- 1.1	- 5.7	215	223	289	9.0	9.2	11.4
Sweetwater	18,134	18,157	18,990	- 0.1	- 4.5	1,559	1,641	1,846	8.6	9.0	9.7
Teton	9,230	9,108	8,946	1.3	3.2	297	298	395	3.2	3.3	4.4
Uinta	8,906	9,116	9,224	- 2.3	- 3.4	973	993	943	10.9	10.9	10.2
Washakie	4,150	4,307	4,296	- 3.6	- 3.4	407	320	426	9.8	7.4	9.9
Weston	3,376	3,452	3,317	- 2.2	1.8	290	315	250	8.6	9.1	7.5
United States									5.6	6.0	6.2
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.1	5.4	5.7

*The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition The 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	FEB 1989[2]	JAN 1989[3]	FEB 1988	JAN 1989	FEB 1988
	Total	Total	Total	to FEB 1989	to FEB 1989
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	174.0	177.5	173.3	- 2.0%	0.4%
Manufacturing	8.0	9.3	7.8	-14.0%	2.6%
Durable Goods	3.8	4.0	3.6	- 5.0%	5.6%
Nondurable Goods	4.2	5.3	4.2	-20.8%	0.0%
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0%	0.0%
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	166.0	168.2	165.5	- 1.3%	0.3%
Mining	16.9	18.4	17.2	- 8.2%	- 1.7%
Contract Construction	6.5	8.4	7.1	-22.6%	- 8.5%
Transportation & Public Utilities	12.4	13.5	12.6	- 8.2%	- 1.6%
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0%	0.0%
Transportation except Railroads	4.6	5.8	4.7	-20.7%	- 2.1%
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	5.9	5.8	6.0	1.7%	- 1.7%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	39.1	41.1	38.7	- 4.9%	1.0%
Wholesale Trade	6.6	6.7	6.6	- 1.5%	0.0%
Retail Trade	32.5	34.4	32.1	- 5.5%	1.3%
Food Stores	4.9	5.1	4.8	- 3.9%	2.1%
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.1	5.6	5.1	- 8.9%	0.0%
Eating & Drinking Places	11.9	12.5	11.9	- 4.8%	0.0%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.3	7.2	7.2	1.4%	1.4%
Services	31.2	31.7	30.8	- 1.6%	1.3%
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0%	0.0%
Medical & Other Health Services	8.0	7.0	7.7	14.3%	3.9%
Government	52.6	47.9	51.9	9.8%	1.4%
Federal Government	8.0	8.0	7.3	0.0%	9.6%
State & Local Government	44.6	39.9	44.6	11.8%	0.0%
State Government	13.3	14.0	13.2	- 5.0%	0.8%
Local Government	31.3	25.9	31.4	20.9%	- 0.3%

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

Table 3 (Cont'd)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	FEB 1989[2]	JAN 1989[3]	FEB 1988	JAN 1989	FEB 1988
	Total	Total	Total	to FEB 1989	to FEB 1989
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.2	26.4	25.8	- 0.8%	1.6%
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0%	7.7%
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0%	0.0%
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0%	-25.0%
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	24.8	25.0	24.5	- 0.8%	1.2%
Mining	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0%	4.0%
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0%	4.4%
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0%	0.0%
Contract Construction	1.0	1.1	1.1	- 9.1%	- 9.1%
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.6	1.7	1.7	- 5.9%	- 5.9%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.1	8.1	7.7	0.0%	5.2%
Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.3	2.3	4.4%	4.4%
Retail Trade	5.7	5.8	5.4	- 1.7%	5.6%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0%	- 7.1%
Services	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0%	0.0%
Government	5.0	5.0	4.9	0.0%	2.0%
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0%	0.0%
State & Local Government	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0%	2.3%
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.0	30.2	29.5	- 0.7%	1.7%
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0%	0.0%
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.9	29.1	28.4	- 0.7%	1.8%
Contract Construction	1.7	1.8	1.6	- 5.6%	6.3%
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0%	4.2%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.9	7.1	7.0	- 2.8%	- 1.4%
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0%	0.0%
Retail Trade	6.2	6.4	6.3	- 3.1%	- 1.6%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0%	0.0%
Services	5.8	5.7	5.6	1.8%	3.6%
Government	10.1	10.1	9.9	0.0%	2.0%
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0%	0.0%
State & Local Government	7.4	7.4	7.2	0.0%	2.8%

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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